

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05237 01 OF 02 281128Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5237

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: UNDP, UNFPA, EAID
SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: POPULATION (ITEM 11)

REF: A. A-158,B. A159, C. A162,

1. SUMMARY: POUPULATION ITEM HAS BEEN CONCLUDED FOLLOWING INTERESTING AND SERIOUS DISCUSSION ACCOMPANIED BY UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS AND WITH THE SECRETARIAT. PRINCIPAL TOPICS WERE APPROVAL AUTHORITY, PRIORITIES, INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMING, IAND INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS. WHO EXPANDED RESEARCH PROGRAM ENGENDERED SOME DEBATE AND MAY BE RAISED IN A FINAL RESOLUTION. WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY 21 (OUT OF 48) DELEGATIONS, PROCEEDING WERE NON-CONTENTIOUS AND HELPFUL.

2. PROCEEDINGS: UNFPA ACTIVITY WAS ADDRESSED IN THREE FORA -- AN INFORMAL BRIEFING SESSION, THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL PLENARY. IN ADDTION, THERE WERE NUMEROUS CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN MAJOR DONORS TO ARRIVE AT AGREED POSITIONS AND SEVERAL PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH LEADING SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS. UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS REVIEWED THOROUGHLY WITH USDEL ANTICIPATED DONOR SUPPORT FOR 1978 AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 05237 01 OF 02 281128Z

CO-HOSTED LUNCHEON WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT (KAUFMAN, NETHERLANDS) FOR SEVERAL MAJOR DONORS.

3. PRESENTATION: IN DPARTURE FROM USUAL PRACTICE, SALAS' STATEMENT (SEE REFAIR C) CONTAINED A REVIEW OF UNFPA ACTIVITY OVER PAST EIGHT YEARS AS BACK-GROUND TO NEW IMPETUS IN AREA OF POPULATION ACTIVITY.

HE EMPHASIZED GROWING AWARENESS OF POPULATION PROBLEMS LEADING TO INCREASED DEMANDS UPON FUND'S RESOURCES. EVEN AT THE LEVEL OF \$105 MILLION, FUND WOULD FALL \$32 MILLION SHORT OF NEEDS. I SALAS URGED DONORS TO REDRESS THE SITUATION WHEREIN POPULATION ASSISTANCE REPRESENTED A DECREASING PERCENTAGE (BELOW 2 PERCENT) OF OVERALL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. HE CALLED FOR SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS AND CITED EXAMPLES OF INCREASED PLEDGES FOR 1977: NORWAY-43 PERCENT, K-41 PERCENT, CANADA-40 PERCENT, USA-25 PERCENT, DENMARK-22 PERCENT. (AT PRIVATE LUNCH, SALAS ASSURED USDEL THAT JAPAN WOULD POST A 60 PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS CONTRIBUTION FOR 1978).

4. SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY AND WITH GREAT FEELING AT THE END OF PLENARY DEBATE, SALAS URGED DONORS TO CONSIDER THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR TOTAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT, RATHER THAN AS A PERCENTAGE OF PREVIOUS SUPPORT. HE EMPHASIZED UNFPA POLICY OF GIVING EQUAL ATTENTION TO COUNTRIES SEEKING TO INCREASE FERTILITY AS TO THOSE HOPING TO DECREASE IT.

5. APPROVAL AUTHORITY: SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (BELGIUM, CANADA, INDIA) WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY SUPPORTED U.S. (SEE REF A) PREFERENCE FOR \$100 MILLION APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR 1978. SALAS MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT BOTH PUBLICLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05237 01 OF 02 281128Z

AND PRIVATELY TO CONVINCE DONORS THAT \$105 MILLION LEVEL BEING REQUESTED COULD BE MET. BOTH FRG AND JAPAN, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, SUPPORTED HIGHER LEVEL INDICATING THAT SALAS' EXPECTATIONS MAY BE REALIZED. USDEL THEREFORE EXPECTS TO SUPPORT CONSENSUS FOR \$105 MILLION.

6. PRIORITIES: WHILE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE APPLICATION OF CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING PRIORITY COUNTRIES, MANY DELEGATIONS LED BY U.S. URGED DECIDED FLEXIBILITY IN PARALLEL IMPLEMENTATION. SELECTION OF 13 "BORDERLINE" COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO 40 PRIORITY STATES MILLIFIED MANY DELEGATIONS. U.S. AND OTHERS URGED FUND NOT TO JEOPARDIZE MOMENTUM OF PROGRESS TO STRICT ADHERENCE TO PRIORITIES.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05237 02 OF 02 281118Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5237

7. INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMS: FOLLOWING STRONG U.S.
PITCH FOR REDUCTION OF INTERCOUNTRY ACTIVITY PENDING
APPROVAL OF A STRATEGY REFLECTIVE OF "BASIC" (MINIMUM)
COUNTRY PROGRAMS, RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED IN DP/263
WERE SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT
ENCOURAGING UNFPA TO CONCENTRATE ON COUNTRY-LEVEL
ACTIVITY AND FASHION INTECOUNTRY PROGRAMS TO MEET
EXPLICIT COUNTRY NEEDS. IUSDEL, ABLY SUPPORTED BY
CANADA, DRAFTED OMNIBUS RESOLUTION AND EXPECTS THE
COUNCIL TO ENDORSE A CONTINUING DECLINE IN INTER-
COUNTRY ACTIVITY WHILE ENCOURAGING COUNTRY-LEVEL PRO-
GRAMS TO COMMANDE 80 PERCENT OF RESOURCES BY 1980.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE AND OVERHEAD COSTS: FACED WITH WIDE
SUPPORT FOR ELIMINATION OF OVERHEAD PAYMENTS AND
SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT, SALAS
URGED DONORS TO ACT IN OTHER AGENCIES CONSISTENT WITH
THIS STAND. (COMMENT: ABSORPTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE
POSTS BY HOST AGENCIES MAY WELL FACE QUESTION OF THEIR
CONTINUED UTILITY WITHIN SPECIFIC AGENCIES).

9. ADMINISTRATION BUDGET: CONSENSUS HAS SETTLED ON
THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ACABQ (DP/280) WHICH DIFFER
FROM U.S. POSITION PRIMARILY IN REGARD TO A P-4 POSI-
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05237 02 OF 02 281118Z

TION IN THE PLANNING DIVISION. USDEL PROPOSES TO ACCEPT
THIS ADDITION TO STAFF IN VIEW OF AGREEMENT ON ALL
OTHER POSITION PROPOSALS EXCEPTING TWO GS POSITIONS
WHICH ARE TRADED OFF BETWEEN THE ACABQ AND US
RECOMMENDATIONS. SPEAKING FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP,
SIERRE LEONE URGED UPGRADING THE AFRICAN POST IN
PROJECTS DIVISION TO P-5. THIS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

10. WHO EXPANDED PROGRAM: DENMARK, FRG, SWEDEN AND UK URGED GREATER SUPPORT BY UNFPA FOR THE EXPANDED RESEARCH PROGRAM. WHO POPULATION OFFICER DR ZAHRA ASKED INCREASED SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM AND OTHER WHO ACTIVITIES. USDEL MADE BRIEF SECOND STATEMENT (SEE REF B) RELATIVE TO RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND UNFPA ROLE. WE ARE INFORMED THAT FRG DELEGATION, OWING TO MANEUVERING IN BONN, IS INSTRUCTED TO PRESS FOR A "TOKEN" CONTRIBUTION TO THE WHO PROGRAM OF \$2-300,000. WE HAVE TOLD BOTH SECRETARIAT AND FRG DEL THAT PROCEDURE IS WRONG AND UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT AND THAT CONSENSUS IS LACKING. WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

11. COMMENT: COUNCIL HAS PROCEEDED, AS NOTED BY PRESIDENT KAUFMAN, IN A SERIOUS AND COOPERATIVE MANNER REGARDING THE POPULATION ISSUE. THE FUND CONTINUES TO COMMAND FULL SUPPORT AS AN EFFECTIVE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENT FOR THE COORDINATION AND DELIVERY OF OPOUPLATION ASSISTANCE. WITH AN IMPLEMENTATION RATIO OF 86 PERCENT FOR 1976 AND PROJECT DEMANDS FOR 1978 TOTALING \$137 MILLION, UNFPA JUSTIFIES THE SUPPORT IT ENJOYS IN REGARD TO EFFECTIVENESS AND DEMAND.
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